

Rowell's Inn
On State Route 11, 6.9 miles
west of Chester
Simonsville
Windsor County
Vermont

HABS No. VT-50

HABS
VT
14-SIMO,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

ROWELL'S INN

Location: On State Route 11, 6.9 miles west of Chester, Simonsville, Windsor County, Vermont.

Brief Statement of Significance: This building, which retains various original features, has an unusual, but regionally characteristic, three story porch. "In early automobile days, this inn was a stop-over on the 'Ideal Tour' between Manchester, Vermont, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire" (Federal Writer's Project, Vermont...).

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original owner: This structure was built by the Simon who gave his name to the community. It served as an Inn and a store.
2. Date of erection: 1820.
3. References: Federal Writer's Project, Vermont, A Guide to the Green Mountain State (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1937), p. 331.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. Technical Description of Exterior:

Two-and-a-half stories, rectangular brick building. Common bond. Gable roof with gable end to the front. Five bay facade with entrance door centered. Two leaf entrance door apparently not original. Panelled, three-centered, arched head over entrance. 2 over 2 light, double hung windows on the first and second floors of the facade are apparently not original. 6 over 6 light double hung windows on third floor of the facade in gable end. Blind, three-centered, brick, relieving arches over windows.

A three story frame porch across the entire front appears to be a later addition. Each of the first two stories has four chamfered posts supporting the floor above and a balustrade with molded rail and turned balusters. The roof carries over the third story of the porch which is a three-centered, arched opening contained within the gable. The sides and top of the arched opening are sheathed with boards and the triangular faces of the pediment that are not cut into by the arched opening have flush board siding. The floor balustrade has square balusters.

B. Technical Description of Interior

The interior "retains such features as the many fireplaces, Christian doors /i.e. six panel doors arranged two over two over two panels/ and the third-floor ballroom." (Federal Writer's Project, Vermont...).

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
October 1960